United Nations A/HRC/39/NGO/35

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2018

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth session
10-28 September 2018
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2018]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.18-14277(E)
1814277

Please recycle

The International organizations' role for the respect of Human Rights

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) submits a report in the context of its interest in the mainstream of international organizations and national institutions which supported by United Nations in favor of the human rights field through UN resolutions. This report has been based on the methodology of the UN resolutions and the Paris Principles of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. Particularly, the recent decision of the Human Rights Council No. 33/6 in 2016 for the role of national institutions and civil society in the prevention of violations of protection and promotion of human rights

In this report, it will be focused on some of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and National Institutions in some Arab States. By Referring to how the cooperation between those entities and the UN has been transformed into personal-political issues and interests instead of promoting the human rights.

UN resolutions for the protection of human rights

Since 1994, the General Assembly has adopted resolution No. 134/48 on national institutions and the protection of human rights, which was called the Paris Principles. That resolution has emphasized the general role of institutions at the national level in the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of international standards. It consists of several principles, including giving national institutions a broad mandate that supported by constitutional articles. As well, providing opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports on the national situation of human rights in general, etc. And please, never forget the decisions that taken prior to this decision.

The General Assembly, in 2013, adopted resolution 68/171 on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, which affirmed the Paris Principles. Thus, the General Secretary was requested to examine it, in order to enable national human rights institutions to participate in United Nations mechanisms. As well as, the Commissioner was asked to strengthen activities related to those institutions.

In 2014, Resolution No. 27/18 was adopted by the Human Rights Council. it is also concerning the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. In which the Secretary-General was requested to provide the Council with a report on the latest activities of the International Coordinating Committee, with regard to the accreditation of national institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Finally, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution No. 33/6 of 2016. That concerning the prevention of violations in the promotion and protection of human rights and welcoming the role of civil society in the promotion of human rights. Furthermore, it is recognizing the importance of the UPR, in which the Commission was requested to organize a seminar before the 37th session of the Human Rights Council. During this seminar, the role and contribution of CSOs and national human rights institutions would be discussed. In addition to inviting states, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and treaty bodies to participate in the workshop, As well, summiting report on the recommendations that resulting from the workshop and recommendations resulting from the resolution, and presenting the report at the 39th session of the Human Rights Council.

The Status of Civil Society Organizations and National Institutions on The Human Rights Domain

Through monitoring the moves of civil society organizations and national institutions following United Nations resolutions, we wil! find changes in approaches and principles of these organizations. Some of them have shifted their battles from defending the human rights generally, to adopt and operate with political issues and goals. There are some states seek to enhance the human rights, while others abusing the United Nations resolutions for just certain political aims. as, the heads and chairmen of these organizations have their own political views and interests that directed the organizations upon. Nevertheless, we get area that filled with political conflicts rather than a humanitarian one.

As well as, the National Committees and Institutions have follow the same approach of their states, that serves their political aims and interests; such as:

- Some of the organizations in consultative status have held their activities within the Human Rights Council to criticize specific states. Not only monitoring violations in these States, but also providing erroneous information to the United Nations mechanisms. On the other hand, they are totally reluctant to criticize other states, that many states and media agencies have accused them directly of supporting and financing terrorism, with objective evidences
- There are consultative status' organizations that are religiously oriented, and have many events in the Human Rights Council. These organizations direct their efforts to help people who become a new believer in a specific religion. In other words, we are facing sectarian organizations in United Nations! Those organizations do not promote human rights as enshrined in the Universal Charter of Human Rights. He international community knows that the human being is the human being, whatever his creed, color or race. Also, those organizations have begun to pay attention to women in areas of conflict and war, and are always issuing statements to support governments that support Islamists and extremist groups.

As for national institutions working to strengthen the human rights profile of the United Nations, there are common practices for these organizations to take advantage of their situation in order to spread an unreal perception and situation of the human rights situation in some countries.

For instance, the National Human Rights Commission of the state of Qatar; a committee working on domestic and international issues. This committee was established to develop a culture of human rights and monitor violations, and working on United Nations mechanisms. But, in practicing, its work and reports are being used against specific states, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The commission did not follow up on the local human rights, situation and did not work on it in order to bring it into line with international standards. Though, its overriding concern was the politically oriented reports against other states. The commission did not pay any attention to United Nations standards promoting human rights, but taking the political path rather than humanitarian one.

One of th humanitarian reports that issued in 2017 under the title "Infractions of the National Human Rights Commission of the Paris Principles", came on the sidelines of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council. That report revealed the dimensions of Qatar's violations of human rights and international laws, exposing lies of the National Human Rights Commission of Qatar against the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, with legal, practical and factual evidence. Also, proving that the Qatar's committee Contravenes the Paris Convention, which stating the neutrality, professionalism and independence of the human rights commissions from governments. Also, they use their status to publish reports against other States that are politically motivated.

The report referred to the confessions of Qatari intelligence officer Hamad Ali Mohammed al-Hammadi, who was arrested in the UAE in 2015.Where, he explicitly confessed and acknowledged the widespread subversive role that the Qatari government has adopted over the years toward the UAE and various countries in the region. That happening through the creation of fictitious accounts on social media sites, for instance; the Boaskor and the North Sniper account which aimed at harming the UAE and its important personalities.,

As well as, the report assured that the Qatari committee showed a clear bias to the Qatari government in confronting the diplomatic boycott states. But, on the other hand, it did not perform its required tasks required, which are stated by the Qatari Decree by Act No. 17 of 2010 on the organization of the national human rights commission and the Paris Principles on national human rights institutions.

Finally, there are many countless civil society organizations, which use their consultative status with the United Nations, to exercise their political orientation, without caring for the human rights. As well as, there are two types of National Institutions; first that work for enhancing the human rights around the world. While the other abuse the UN resolutions for serving political interests. Which means that, the criteria for the selection of those organization should be reviewed.

Recommendations

Maat for peace, development and human rights has some recommendations for the Human Rights Council:

- The United Nations should review the criteria and conditions for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations, and reconsider the organizations that have consultative status with the Human Rights Council.
- Review the practices and procedures of the Committee of Non-Governmental organizations of the Economic and Social Council in granting consultative status in order to comply with international standards and to ensure that they will have the full and diverse participation of civil society.
- Avoiding the abuse of judicial procedures, and mis-using the procedural flaws and ways of participation in order to achieve political objectives and orientations.
- Prepare periodical reports on the participation of civil society, including the compatibility of measures taken to enhance participation and practices of civil society.
- Provide occasional review as an independent accountability tool for civil society, on measures taken by civil society for the human rights at the local and international levels through a United Nations review team.